CLAIMS

1.   A method in a computer system for providing property notifications for
2 properties of software components in a distributed environment, the method comprising:
3   registering an interest in watching a property of a software component;
4   receiving notification when the property is set; and
5   tracking a state of the software component so that it can be determined
6 when the software component is in a down state.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 including retrieving the state of the property
2 independently of receiving a notification.

1   3.   The method of claim 1 including un-registering an interest in watching
2 the property of the software component.

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2   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the property has associated access rights
3 and wherein an interest can only be registered by a software component with sufficient
4 access rights.

1   5.   The method of claim 1 wherein each software component that is
2 watching the property receives notification of the setting of the property before any software
3 component that is watching the property receives a subsequent notification of another setting
4 of the property.

1   6.   The method of claim 1 wherein each software component that is
2 watching the property receives notifications of the settings of the property in the same order
3 as the settings.

1   7.   A method in a computer system for providing property notifications for
2 property settings in a distributed environment, the method comprising:

3   for each of the plurality of software components, registering an interest

4   in a property; and

5   setting the property multiple times;

6   for each setting of the property, notifying each software component that

7   the property has been set prior to notifying any software component of the next setting of the

8   property.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 wherein each software component receives the

2   notifications of the settings in the same order as the settings.